

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 15, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-9 remain pending in this application, of which claim 1 is the independent claim. Claims 1, 2, 7 and 9 have been amended. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

FIG. 4 was objected to for an erroneously added negative sign on the number entry of a matrix, and has now been corrected. An amended FIG. 4 is attached.

Claims 1 and 2 are objected to for informalities that have now been corrected.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by UK Patent Application GB 2321816 A to Lee ("Lee").

Claim 1 as amended recites, "choosing from among the detected non-edge pixels, a pixel to be filtered; and replacing the chosen pixel with a pixel that is selected from among said chosen pixel and at least one pixel . . . in immediate vertical, horizontal or diagonal adjacency with said chosen pixel." Support for the amendment of claim 1 is found in the specification (e.g., page 4, lines 1-6 and 11-13).

Lee, by contrast, does not choose "from among" detected non-edge pixels "a pixel to be filtered." Nor does Lee replace "the chosen pixel with a pixel that is selected from among" other pixels. Instead, Lee performs average or weighted filtering 555, 560. For at least these reasons, Lee fails to anticipate the invention as recited in claim 1.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Lee in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,229,578 to Acharya et al. ("Acharya").

Acharya likewise fails to disclose or suggest ""choosing from among the detected non-edge pixels, a pixel to be filtered.

In addition, Acharya fails to disclose or suggest "examining pixels within a picture of said sequence to detect edge pixels and non-edge pixels; choosing from among the detected non-edge pixels, a pixel to be filtered; and replacing the chosen pixel with a pixel that is selected from among said chosen pixel and at least one pixel of said pixels within a picture in immediate vertical, horizontal or diagonal adjacency with said chosen pixel." Although, Acharya, in applying the multi-level median hybrid filter, replaces a non-edge pixel with the median pixel, that median pixel is not selected not from among the pixels from among which the non-edge pixel was detected. Instead, the median pixel is selected from among the outputs of averaging subfilters (col. 10, line 15: "averaging subfilters").

For at least both of the above reasons, Acharya fails to compensate for the deficiencies in Lee. Accordingly, the proposed Lee/Acharya combination fails to render obvious the invention as recited in claim 1 and therefore as recited in dependent claim 2.

Support for the amendment of claim 2 is found in the specification (e.g., Table I).

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Lee in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,852,475 to Gupta et al. ("Gupta").

Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1, and although Gupta is directed to artifact reduction, Gupta cannot compensate for the shortcomings in Lee. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons set forth above regarding claim 1, the cited combination of references does not render claim 1, or its dependent claims, obvious.

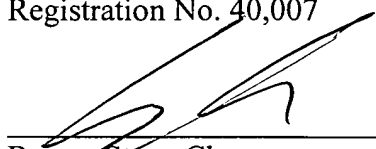
As to the other claims, they each depend from claim 1 and are likewise deemed to be patentable over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons. Support for the amendment of claim 9 is found in the specification (e.g., page 8, line 13).

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Gross
Registration No. 40,007

Date: 11/14/03

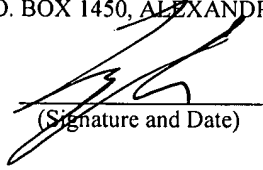

By: Steve Cha
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,069

Mail all correspondence to:
Russell Gross, Registration No. 40,007
US PHILIPS CORPORATION
P.O. Box 3001
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001
Phone: (914) 333-9608
Fax: (914) 332-0615

Certificate of Mailing Under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA. 22313 on Nov. 14, 2003.

Steve Cha, Reg. No. 44,069
(Name of Registered Rep.)


(Signature and Date)